

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2141

To reform the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2009

Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HARE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. CLARKE, and Ms. FUDGE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To reform the United States Interagency Council on
Homelessness.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Interagency Council
5 on Homelessness Reform Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. MISSION.**

7 Section 201 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-
8 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11311) is amended by inserting be-
9 fore the period at the end the following “whose mission

1 shall be to coordinate the Federal response to homeless-
2 ness and to create a national partnership at every level
3 of government and with the private sector to reduce and
4 end homelessness in the Nation while maximizing the ef-
5 fectiveness of the Federal Government in contributing to
6 the end of homelessness”.

7 **SEC. 3. MEMBERS.**

8 Subsection (a) of section 202 of the McKinney-Vento
9 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11312(a)) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) by redesignating paragraph (16) as para-
12 graph (19); and

13 (2) by inserting after paragraph (15) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(16) The Commissioner of Social Security, or
16 the designee of the Commissioner.

17 “(17) The Attorney General of the United
18 States, or the designee of the Attorney General.

19 “(18) The Director of the Office of Manage-
20 ment and Budget, or the designee of the Director.”.

21 **SEC. 4. MEETINGS.**

22 Subsection (c) of section 202 of the McKinney-Vento
23 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11312(c)) is amend-
24 ed by striking “annually” and inserting “four times each
25 year, and the rotation of the positions of Chairperson and

1 Vice Chairperson required under subsection (b) shall occur
2 at the first meeting of each year”.

3 **SEC. 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

4 (a) SENATE CONFIRMATION.—Subsection (a) of sec-
5 tion 204 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 11314(a)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “The Council shall appoint an
8 Executive Director” and inserting “The President
9 shall appoint an Executive Director, with the advice
10 and consent of the Senate, who shall serve at the
11 pleasure of the President, and”;

12 (2) by striking the last sentence.

13 (b) REPORTING TO DIRECTOR OF DOMESTIC POLICY
14 COUNCIL.—Section 202 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless
15 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11312) is amended by adding
16 at the end the following new subsection:

17 “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Executive Director of
18 the Council shall report to the Director of Domestic Policy
19 Council.”.

20 **SEC. 6. DUTIES.**

21 Section 203 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-
22 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11313) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2),
2 (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (2),
3 (3), (4), (5), (10), (11), and (12), respectively;

4 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as
5 so redesignated by paragraph (1), the following:

6 “(1) not later than the expiration of the 12-
7 month period beginning upon the date of the enact-
8 ment of the Interagency Council on Homelessness
9 Reform Act of 2009, develop, make available for
10 public comment, and submit to the President and to
11 the Congress a national plan to end homelessness for
12 all Americans, setting forth actions to accomplish
13 such goal, and update such plan every 2 years;”;

14 (C) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated
15 by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by in-
16 serting before the semicolon at the end the fol-
17 lowing: “and ensure that related programs and
18 activities to assist homeless individuals of Fed-
19 eral agencies are coordinated with each other”;
20 and

21 (D) by inserting after paragraph (5), as so
22 redesignated by subparagraph (A) of this para-
23 graph, the following:

24 “(6) develop constructive alternatives to crim-
25 inalizing homelessness and eliminate laws and poli-

1 cies that prohibit sleeping, feeding, sitting, resting,
2 or lying in public spaces when there are no suitable
3 alternatives, result in the destruction of a homeless
4 person's property without due process, or are selec-
5 tively enforced against homeless persons;

6 “(7) makes recommendations, in the reports
7 submitted pursuant to subsection (b) on—

8 “(A) long-term goals for the Congress to
9 reduce homelessness; and

10 “(B) legislative strategies for the Congress
11 to achieve such goals;

12 “(8) evaluate the Federal role in interacting
13 and coordinating with State and local entities that
14 address homelessness;

15 “(9) conduct research and develop methods—

16 “(A) through consultation with State and
17 local agencies, to improve coordination between
18 the Council and Federal agencies in existence
19 upon the date of enactment of the Interagency
20 Council on Homelessness Reform Act of 2009
21 that specifically deal with homelessness; and

22 “(B) to minimize the period during which
23 individuals remain homeless;”; and

24 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
25 following new paragraphs:

1 “(3) BIENNIAL REPORT.—The Council shall
 2 prepare and transmit to the President and the Con-
 3 gress a biennial report detailing the efforts of the
 4 Council to address homelessness.

5 “(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Council shall
 6 make each report submitted to the Congress pursu-
 7 ant to this paragraph, or paragraph (2) or (3) of
 8 this subsection, and the national plan and updates
 9 of such plan submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) of
 10 subsection (a), publicly available, including through
 11 posting on a World Wide Web site maintained by
 12 the Council.”.

13 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is
 15 amended by striking section 208 (42 U.S.C. 11318) and
 16 inserting the following:

17 **“SEC. 208. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 19 this title \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and such sums
 20 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2010 through
 21 2015. Any amounts appropriated to carry out this title
 22 shall remain available until expended.”.

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